

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A welding installation according to claim ~~[[11]]~~ 18, further comprising a micrometric table, arranged on the head, for adjusting a position of the head above the first central drilling that is aligned with the laser.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A welding installation according to claim ~~[[11]]~~ 18, wherein the head comprises a central recess in which the first and second central drillings end.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A welding installation according to claim ~~[[11]]~~ 18, wherein the two pipes pass through the head in front and behind the first and second central drillings.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A welding installation according to claim ~~[[11]]~~ 18, wherein the laser is chosen from among a YAG or CO₂ type source, and electric arc welding is chosen from among MIG or MAG type.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A method for welding in a chamfer joint with an installation including a laser, a filler metal wire, a wire guide electrode, a head configured to penetrate into the chamfer, extending along longitudinal and depth directions of the chamfer and narrow in the transverse direction of the chamfer, first and second central drillings passing through the head essentially in a depth of direction, but converging towards each

other under the head, the first drilling being aligned with the laser and the second drilling containing the wire guide electrode, and two pipes configured to eject a protection gas through the head and ending in chambers located before and behind the central drillings in the longitudinal direction and extending over a length in that direction, the method comprising:

- blowing a protection gas through the pipes into the chambers;
- lowering the head into the chamfer joint;
- advancing the head along the chamfer joint; and
- creating a molten pool under the head, the molten bath being completely covered by the chambers.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A welding installation according to claim [[11]] 18, wherein the head comprises an underside plate, the underside plate perforated in front of the chambers.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~A welding installation according to claim 11~~ An installation for welding in a chamfered joint comprising:

- a laser;
- a filler metal wire;
- a wire guide electrode; and
- a head configured to penetrate into the chamfer, extended along longitudinal and depth directions of the chamfer and narrow in a transverse direction of the chamfer, first and second central drillings passing through the head essentially in a depth direction, but converging towards each other under the head, the first drilling being aligned with the laser and the second drilling containing the wire guide electrode, and two pipes configured to eject

a protection gas passing through the head and ending in chambers located before and behind the first and second central drillings in the longitudinal direction and extending over a sufficient length in the longitudinal direction to completely cover a molten pool generated when the installation is in use, wherein the chambers are elongated along the longitudinal direction.